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PORTSLADE-BY-SEA.

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health,

for the Year 1945,

by

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

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N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., also M.O.H. of Hove.

SURVEYOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E.,C.R.S.I.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., C.R.S.I.

PHYSICIANS TO THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRES—

Miss V. E. CLAXTON, M.B., B.S., London.

Miss D. A. CAREW HUNT, M.D., London.

HEALTH VISITORS AND SCHOOL NURSES—

Nurse GUEST, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate.

Nurse HENNESEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate.

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1945—the first for many years in which there is no mention of Civil Defence or of the other war-time services, and in which the emphasis is laid on Public Health and Reconstruction.

Once again the vital statistics show no evidence of impaired nutrition in the Community as a whole and there were no outbreaks of infectious disease beyond the anticipated bienniel measles cycle. Nevertheless, it is my opinion that the population has not passed entirely unscathed through the war period, and is neither so fit physically or mentally as it was in the days when queues and rationing were non-existent. There is a vast amount of minor infection and illness among all age-groups and recovery from these is neither so speedy nor so complete as it was before 1939.

The Birth Rate (16) showed a fall from the previous year's phenomenal total of 20, but the Death Rate (11) remained stationary. The Infant Mortality Rate rose from 45 to 65 per 1,000 births, due to the same number of infant deaths occurring among 65 fewer births, and an analysis of the actual causes shows that of a total 12, 5 died of infections of various types, and 4 were born with defects which would effectively have prevented their ultimate survival.

The incidence of infectious disease was exceptionally light except for measles, and fortunately in that disease the age-groups chiefly affected were those over 2, thus avoiding the early months of life when the child has sufficient to cope with in adapting itself to the outside world without the added burden and risk of combatting an infection.

Only one case of diphtheria was notified and it is tempting to regard this negligible incidence as due to the almost complete immunisation of the under 5-year olds, and in a very high proportion of those attending school.

Tuberculosis of all forms remained at about the same level as in previous years, and the deaths represent about 5% of the total from all causes, but involved a high proportion among the 20-25 age-group.

Under the Education Act, 1944, Hove and Portslade were combined in a Divisional Executive and during 1945 considerable progress was made in the process of fusing the two different systems of medical organisation which were in force in the two areas previous to the passing of the Act.

From the details of the Sanitary Administration supplied by the Sanitary Inspector it will be seen that a great deal of his time was employed in dealing with defects in the premises of those fortunate enough to possess housing accommodation and in supervising the food supply of all.

For those in whose case the accommodation was insufficient, unsatisfactory or non - existent, the Council approved a programme of 300 houses to be completed by 1948, 50 of which would be ready by 1946, together with a number of prefabricated dwellings, and by requisitioning and converting existing premises, endeavoured to assist the more urgent applicants.

I have the honour to be,

Yout obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.		Total	Male	Female.
Live Births	Legitimate	166	81	85
	Illegitimate	19	10	9

Birth-rate 16.1.

Stillbirths :—4. Rate per 1,000 births—20.5

Deaths	130	58	72

Corrected Death Rate 11.3

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth :—

From Sepsis : none. From other causes : none.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—12

Rate per 1,000 births : Total 64.9

Deaths from

Measles (all ages)	none
Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	none
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	4

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Drainage.

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :—

There are 10 houses served by 6 cesspools, of these cesspools 2 have no sewarage facilities in the neighbourhood and 2 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act.

In addition there are 9 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

Sanitary Inspector. The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :—

Houses inspected for housing defects ..	269
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ..	390
Houses inspected after complaints	206
Premises disinfected	10
Informal notices issued (Housing & P.H. Acts)	234
Statutory notices issued	30
Houses found dirty	33
Houses with insufficient bin	123
Drains defective	13
Closets	21
Sinks	12
Roofs and Gutters defective	71
Paving of Yards defective	8
Damp & Defective Walls, Ceilings, Floors, etc.	205
Defective Floors	55
Defects to Windows & Doors, Firegrates, etc. ..	130

Rats and Mice (Destruction Act, 1919).

A considerable amount of time and labour was spent during the year in the drive to destroy Rats and Mice.

Publicity was given to this by the display of posters and the distribution of pamphlets requesting the public to report infestations. The response was fairly good but inspections discovered infestations which had not been reported.

A part-time Rodent Operator is employed on this work and a small charge to cover the cost of baits and poisons is made.

During the year 129 infestations were dealt with and 486 visits were made to infested premises.

Eradication of bed bugs.

(1) During the year 2 Council Houses and 21 other houses were found to be infested with vermin, and were disinfected as follows :

(2) By removing or easing all woodwork, architraves, skirting-boards, etc., and spraying with insecticides, and in some cases by the use of gaseous fumigants.

This work has been carried out by the Council, and in the case of Non-Council Houses the cost of materials used has been charged to the Owner or Occupier.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year* :

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	269
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	527
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	—
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	269

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices* :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	146

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year* :

A *Proceedings under section* 9, 10 *and* 17 *of the Housing Act*, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	39
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	
	(*a*) By Owners	15
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	72
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices	
	(*a*) By Owners	13
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C *Proceedings under sections* 11 *and* 13 *of the Housing Act*, 1936.

(1)	Number of representations, etc, made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :—

(*a*) To render the house fit for human habitation 0

(*b*) As to usage other than for human habitation 0

D *Proceedings under section* 12 *of the Housing Act*, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—OVERCROWDING.

The number of overcrowded premises has increased considerably during the year, and there are numerous cases of two or more families living in one house. This is due to the shortage of Housing Accommodation, and although every effort is being made to provide accommodation by the requisitioning of empty properties, no real progress can be made until new houses are built.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD.

Milk Supply. There is only 1 farm is the district from which milk is supplied ; and here a modern cowshed has been built and the dairy rebuilt and equipped with modern appliances.

There are 4 Dairies in the District, 1 Cowkeeper, 20 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 19 Retailers and Dairymen who deliver milk in this district, of which 16 have premises in other districts.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :

92lbs. of Beef, 7lbs. of Pork, 9lbs. of Bacon, 3½ stones of Fish, 12lbs. of Sausages, ½lb. of Butter, 200 packets of Pudding Mixture, 56½lbs. of Oranges, 84lbs. of Sweets, 35lbs. of Dates, 2 packets of Suet, 543 tins of Food, 4 packets of Cake Mixture.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1945.

Disease.	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	R'moved Hospital	D'ths.
Scarlet Fever	7				1		4	2						9	
Erysipelas	6										2	4			
Pneumonia	20	1		1	1	1	3	2	1	1	4	4	1		8
Diphtheria	1						1							1	
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—														
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	—														
Measles	182	4	36	22	22	52	45			1					
Whooping Cough ..	5			2		1	2								
Influenza	—														1
	221	5	36	25	24	54	55	4	1	2	6	8	1	10	9

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality, 1945.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Age not known	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
25	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
35	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
66	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	5	3	4	2	5	—	—

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